

his leadership and cosponsorship, and to the distinguished chairman, who is also good natured—notwithstanding differences we may have which may be fairly significant, but I have never heard a cross word uttered by him—and to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee for engaging in this dialogue which I think does at least illustrate the choice we are going to have to make and the choice that, in fact, we are asking our colleagues to make.

We are simply saying do not squander the surplus by making this kind of humongous tax cut this year when we can wait until next year or the year after and find out exactly where we are going and, hopefully, increase the pressure to actually save Social Security and Medicare. With that, I thank the Chair, and I thank my colleagues.

The Senator from Florida and I happily yield back the remaining time on our side.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

I ask unanimous consent that the pending Baucus motion be considered in order under the provisions of the consent agreement and all other provisions of the consent agreement remain in status quo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business.

IN MEMORY OF KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the death of the Arab world's longest-standing leader, King Hassan II of Morocco, who died last Friday at the age of 70. To his family, and to the people of Morocco, I extend my heartfelt condolences.

King Hassan ruled Morocco for 38 years as only the second King of Morocco in that country's modern, independent history, having succeeded to the throne after the death of his father, King Mohammed V, in 1961, only five years after Morocco gained its independence from the French.

Morocco, however, is an ancient country and the country with which the United States has its oldest uninterrupted diplomatic relations. Our two countries signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1786, which the United States ratified the following year. Thus began a relationship that provided our tall ships a haven in the 18th century and developed into a relationship of geostrategic importance in the 20th century.

This special friendship was cherished in modern times by leaders in both of our countries, particularly King Has-

san, and I was pleased to see that President Clinton, along with former President Bush, attended King Hassan's funeral this weekend. America lost a good friend, a wise counsel on the region, and an important and brave promoter for peace in the Middle East.

One of the biggest challenges for the Arab world, as in other parts of the world, has been the challenge of modernization, and how leaders encourage their governments and societies to rise to this challenge.

We have seen several models: secular socialist dictatorships, radical fundamentalist regimes, and traditional authoritarians. King Hassan, whose remarkable career spanned from the era of decolonization to the doorstep of the next century, demonstrated that the traditional model could adapt to the economic and political challenges of modernization. He understood that tradition was not the enemy of the modern, but could ease the transition by providing stability and respect for his people while allowing political and economic reforms to unleash the fundamental strengths and dreams of his people.

For his adept stewardship, he earned the deep and sincere affection of the vast majority of Morocco's nearly 30 million citizens.

Beginning as a traditional authoritarian, the King recognized the importance of constitutional governance early in his reign and expanded political rights through the years. In doing so, he was one of the most successful leaders in the Arab world in reconciling traditional monarchy with the requisites and demands of modernity. King Hassan in recent years had furthered political reform such that, today, the lower house of parliament is elected through universal suffrage from a roster of multiple parties, and the governing coalition, including the Prime Minister, is controlled by the opposition.

Concomitant with these political reforms has been a steady improvement in the human rights situation, marked, in some significant cases, by reconciliation with and compensation for victims of the past. While power still resides predominantly with the crown, King Hassan, by advancing political democracy and the free market, allowed his people and provided his son, King Mohammed VI, with the fundamental platform on which Morocco will proceed confidently into the next century.

Mr. President, no remarks on the legacy of King Hassan can be complete without recognizing his prescient view of reconciliation between Israel and the Arab world. Many note that some of the initial meetings preparing for the signing of the historic Camp David accords occurred with King Hassan in Morocco. The fact is that the King of Morocco had been providing opportunities for encounters and dialogue for

years before then, showing that the King had a wise vision for peace as well as a pragmatist's approach for moving toward this noble goal.

From the 1960s to the late Prime Minister Rabin's visit to Morocco in 1993—which was, by the way, only the second Arab nation visited by an Israeli leader, after Egypt—King Hassan of Morocco demonstrated that he recognized the permanent role that the Jewish state had to play in the affairs of the Middle East. In this, as in many other areas, King Hassan was a leader among leaders.

Morocco's new king, King Mohammed VI, has many challenges before him. He, along with King Abdallah of Jordan, represents the new generation of leaders in the region: highly educated, understanding the West, cognizant of the realities of the region, and faced with enormous domestic economic challenges. Morocco's is a youthful population, straddled with an unacceptably high illiteracy rate and an unyielding demand for economic development. These are extremely tough challenges to burden a new and young king. But let us recall the youth of King Hassan when he assumed the throne in 1961 and the misplaced doubts about his future. We recognize today the legacy of King Hassan to his son and his nation.

The United States should assist in the continuing modernization of Morocco and the continuing cooperation to create a more peaceful Middle East. So should continue a special relationship into the 21st century that began so propitiously in the 18th.

THE DEATH OF KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of King Hassan II and express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the people of Morocco.

It was with a great sense of sadness that I learned of the death of King Hassan, a statesman, a peacemaker, and a visionary. The King was beloved not only by the Moroccan people, but by people committed to peace throughout the Middle East and around the world. He was dedicated to this mission for decades, and it is quite unfortunate that he could not live to see the final outcome of his lengthy efforts.

Many in my home State of Michigan and throughout the United States stand with the people of Morocco in mourning the loss of this great leader. My deepest and heartfelt condolences go out to King Mohammed VI, the King's family and all the people of Morocco in these difficult times.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday,